
OHIO MYCOLOGICAL CLUB.

To the Botanical Department came ever more frequent inquiries as to the mushrooms and toadstools and other of the higher fungi. It was thought best to devise a plan of response that would be less burdensome and at the same time a better means of furnishing, as far as could be done, the information sought, and perhaps render assistance to people not now nor intending to be students in colleges.

Accordingly it was decided to form a Mycological Club, unencumbered by constitution, by-laws, or officers, open to everybody, and with the sole object of mutual help in observing and studying the numerous mushrooms and toadstools—learning them so thoroughly that the different kinds, especially the commoner species, could be accurately identified with a view of using the edible and avoiding the poisonous kinds. It was determined to fix the fee at ten cents—low so as not to be burdensome to anyone—and strong hope was entertained that with the income so obtained several bulletins could be issued during the season.

All who were consulted permitted their names to be entered as charter members, and the Ohio Mycological Bulletin, No. 1, was issued. The members now number over 200 and the membership cards are still being received. It is interesting to observe that

the list includes school pupils, college students, many amateurs, professional botanists (among these several eminent American Mycologists,) business and professional people—not confined to Ohio but from the whole country.

The first four-page bulletin gave a few introductory and explanatory paragraphs, nine figures illustrating the general appearance of the commoner groups of mushrooms, namely, the Gill-fungi, Pore-fungi, Spine-fungi, Coral-fungi, Carrion-fungi, Puffballs, Earthstars, Cup fungi, and Morels. Three illustrated books noticed, suggestions to teachers, a paragraph on the Gill-fungi, and the list of seventy-six charter members are the other contents of the first number.

Bulletin No. 2 has just appeared. Besides explaining the make-up of a botanical name, giving directions for sending specimens, and the second list of members, the Morels are discussed and illustrated by two full-page plates, showing the plants natural size.

All the botanical names and the uncommon descriptive words used in the bulletin are divided into syllables, and the accented syllables marked. All matters are made as clear as possible. All who may be interested in the mushrooms or who desire the bulletin are invited to join the club, sending their names with fee to the Professor of Botany, O. S. U., Columbus, O. —O. M. B.
